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# It Is Darkest Before Day.

Just before the daylight cometh, And before the early dawn, The darkness of the midnight deepens, Heralding the morn, And making day's approaching splend And her chariot of light, Take an added ray of glory By contrasting shades of night,

So the adage has descended In a terse and common way, Be not saddened nor discouraged, "It is darkest before day;" Steady up the faltering footsteps. Passing through the shades of right, For beyond the depths of darkness Are the rave of morning light.

Think, whenever trials meet you. And whatever hardships greet you, Give them not too hard a name: Take life's screet ills encouraged. Looking for a brighter way. For though clouds like night-time deeper "It is darkest before day."

#### "One Touch of Nature."

My sketch was finished, and I turned to go Yet lingered for a minute to compare The painted cottage in my folio With that which stood within the land scape there.

How feeble was my picture, despite all my

The cotter's wife was standing at her doo And saw her husband coming down the

And, catching up her baby from the floor, She hurried out to meet him once again Lavish of treasured smiles that were no

Their meeting all his weariness relieved; His drudgery to merriment gave place : Exchanging burdens, she his tools received And he, the baby nestling to his face. So went they back contented to their dwelling place.

Weak was my sketch, and weak the match Which nature shed around on land and

sea, Reside the beauty of affection true That simple meeting there revealed to me Nothing on earth with human love compared

SLEEPLESS people-and there are many in America—should court the sun. The very worst soporific is shine. Therefore it is very plain ever happen to you." that poor sleepers should pass as many hours of the day in sunshine, and as few as possible in the shade. oblige thousands of admirers f

## MASONIC MEETINGS.

CHARITY LODGE, NO. 43. REGULAR Communications on Wednesday of the week in which the moon fulls. Mr. Lehanon R. A. Chapter. Meetings on Tuesday evening of the week in which the moon fulls. Bradford Council, No. 11. Meetings at Masonic Hall on Wednesday afternoon of the week in which the moon fulls, in the mouths of September, December, March and June.

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posite Hotel, West Foirlee.

#### John's Choice.

Peter Jansen was a wealthy and eccentric New England farmer, owner in fee simple of many broad and fertile acres of valuable land, and the proud parent of a promising son, now near grown, who in his infan-

altogether unheard-of name of John. Now, John Jausen had been bro't be wondered at that as he grew more mature, he was regarded as a along. very exemplary young man by those who knew him intimately. He was sober and industrious in his habits, cultivated and refined in his tastes, with a disposition to get along and prosper in the world, as his father had done before him.

But the time came when he was one-and-twenty. This is a remarkable episode in the lives of most young men, when fully freed from parental restraint by the construction of the law, they think they know so much, and subsequently learn that they know so little.

Now, possibly Peter, the pere, regarded this event in his son's life with as much concern as did John the junior, for certain it is that shortly thereafter he called him inconversation.

"Well, John" he said, "how does t seem to be one-and-twenty?"

"Seem ! Why I can't see as i seems any different from any other

will be getting married."

"Oh, I hadn't thought of such at thing yet in earnest."

"Hadn't eh? Well, you'd bet-

"Yes, I suppose so." "Suppose so! Suppose so; you'll know so by and by. Well, John, gave a sudden little start of surprise Many women are martyrs, and yet you are old enough to begin to upon recognizing his visitor. do not know it. They shut the sun- think seriously about this matter. shine out of their houses and hearts, I ain't going to have you running they wear veils, they carry parasols, around unsettled and unsteady in they do all that is possible to keep your habits and character. Now, John nervously, forgetting in his meet a party of friends at her beggar. off the subtlest, and yet most po- the quicker you pick yourself out a tent, influence which is intended to wife and settle down the better. give them strength, beauty and Mind you, my boy, this wasting cheerfulness. Is it not time to three or four of the best years of change all this, and so get roses and your life in sowing your wild oats right into the parlor and sit down had written. It was: "Sweet Mator of slipshodity calculated to inspire color in our pale cheeks, strength is a very foolish principle for young and she will be in presently." in our weak backs, and courage in men to adhere to. Now, I don't yur timid souls. The women of propose to have you do anything of America are pale and delicate; they the kind, and if you avoid it you may be blooming and strong, and won't have a harvest of briars and the sunlight will be a potent influ- thistles to gather afterwards. Now, ence in this transformation. Will just as soon as you pick yourself they not try it a year or two, and out a prudent and industrious little gles in the adjoining room, and a love would betray us both. But, this time three months, and it's only man up; the rapid weakening of wife, I've a good farm to give you, and enough to set you up in reason-

> able style, you understand." "Yes, sir."

"But not an acre nor penny of it shall you possess until you have complied with my wishes."

"But, father-'

performed your part of the contract I will attend to mine." "But this is rather sudden."

us; you are big enough and bright ing. enough to earn your own living; if you can do better by yourself than red to him. can by you, why, start right out in the world, for you are of age. play blind man's buff ?" have stated my terms and do not propose to alter them."

"But, who shall I marry ?" "There's Israel Ives' five daughters; and I'm certain you can have your pick out of the lot. They've all been well brought up, and any one of them is good enough for you, so go ahead and as soon as you report favorably, the farm is yours."

ther ?" "Which one shall you take!" repeated Peter Jansen; "it must be a bright man surely, that cannot decide at sight what woman to pick out of a dozen, and a singular youth you are not to have your eye on one already. However, make your own choice, and you'll be happier, live longer and prosper better in

your domestic affairs generally." With these concluding remarks

tions.

Now, John was not a verdant young man : he had seen considerable of the world for a person of his age but he was very bashful and diffident. It was this quality of his disposition that made him so averse ey had been designated by the not to ladies' society, and had occasioned no little anxiety to old Peter. who had already begun to fear that up in a very careful and proper John would be a confirmed bach manner, and it was not therefore to elor, hence his desire to kindly assist John's matrimonial matters

> A night or two subsequent to this conversattou with his father, it was noticed that he attired himself with unusual care before going out, as he insisted, to attend the debating society. His father and mother regarded each other significantly as if they well understood what was uppermost in John's mind, but they gave that young man no intimation that they suspected his intentions.

After a lingering look in the looking-glass, John started forth into the darkness taking the shortest road possible to the residence of Israel

He soon came to the place he intended visiting. A bright light gleamed through the front windows with welcoming beams, and he fanto his presence for a little private cied he could see smiling faces there; yet his heart thumped so walked up and down the road past "Can't, eh? Oh, well, you'll see the place several times to calm himthe next thing you'll be thinking of he proposed saying when in the presence of Miss Ives.

At last he turned in at the gate, and walking boldly up to the front door, and made his presence known ter be thinking; getting married is to the Ives family by means of the laudanum, and the very best is sun. about as important a thing as will friendly assistance of the heavy friendly game of blind man's buff, brass knocker.

Israel Ives came to the door with a flaring candle in his hand; he

"Why, John," said he "is this

sudden embarrassment the particular Miss Ives he wished to see. rael, smiling mischievously, "walk of paper an impression of what he

the hall, John did as he was bid; Don't fail to come, my darling, 1 he sat down on the outer edge of a shall then have the happiness

He heard several suppressed gigsubdued suggestion on the part of Israel that they had best not be foolish. Then the door opened and ered hardest-the pencil or the husin sailed Miss Sophrony Ives, fol. band. lowed by Patience, Priscilla, Malvina and Lucy Ives, each simulta-

neously smiling and trying to look as sweet and pretty as possible. first business, and when you have they arranged themselves in a graceful group about him; then began the liveliest conversation John had ever listened to. He began to "That makes no difference; if you grow uneasy and lose his self-posare not satisfied with my terms, the session. This was rather more Miss world is wide enough for both of Ives than he had anticipated meet-

At last a sudden thought occur-

"Girls," said he, "do any of you The young ladies all suddenly

giggled. "Sometimes," said Miss Sophrony with a sly glance at her sisters. "Suppose we have a game then,"

said John earnestly. Several handkerchiefe were simultaneously produced, and before John was aware he was in Midnight darkness. "But which one shall I take, fa-

"But you must be blinded too, Lucy," cried Miss Malvina; "it always makes it livelier to have two you know." So Miss Lucy's sight was tempo-

rarily obscured in the same manner that John's had been. Then the word "ready" was given and without a word of warning, Sophrony, Pati ence, Priscilla, and Malvina noiseles sly glided from the

the fond parent turned away, and innocently about them, each failing country."

John was left alone with his reflect to find the object they sought. At last John spoke: "I say, where are you all ?" he said helplessly.

> No answer came to this question from those he was seeking. "John," said Lucy, "I believe

they are all hiding." Just at that moment they approached each other with their arms. This was a sensation so new or pass them by. to John that it almost deprived him of articulation.

"Oh, is it you, John," said Lucy. "I believe they're tooling us." She suddanly removed the bandage from her eyes, and the next mcment John felt her deft little fingers untying the knot in the handkerchief bound about his head.

"Look a here, John," she said a half provoked sort of way; "just see what a trick they've played on us. I might have known what they were up to. Never mind, we'll have a real pleasant visit now."

They sat down side by side on the high-backed sofa, and Lucy talked so pleasantly and encouragingly to John that he soon felt perfeetly at home. He was almost astonished at his self-possession. The minutes lengthened into hours and -well, he never could fully explain how it was afterward, but the fact very singularly under his shining was, that Lucy promised him that satin vest that it was several min- she would be Mrs. John Jansen utes before he could make up his whenever he was ready to claim mind to knock at the door; and he her as his own, and John went home that night very proud and happy, and on the following morning he quick enough, I guess. I suppose self, and to think over the words informed his astonished father that any time that farm was ready, he would be ready to go to housekeep-

> Peter Jansen kept his word, and John was subsequently heard to say that if it hadn't been for that he would hardly have known how make a choice.

house. After "Hubby" had done as his wife desired, and started to post the most abject misery; gait pain-Leaving his hat upon the rack in Wednesday, to meet the Smithers. a sweet good night kiss. I dare not see you often, or my all-consuming Mattie dear, don't fail to come."-We wonder which the wife consid-

A REJECTED LOVER'S DIRE RE-VENGE. Taking a seat just behind the happy pair in church, he racked "I mean exactly what I say, and They advanced one by one and his brain for means of revenge, and no more; make this matter your gave John a greeting, after which looking like seventeen Othellos con- been in the lone grave for five long centrated in one. Finally a ghastly smile crept over his face, he raised half up in his seat, and nabbed a large black bug that was crawling on a pillar hard by, and gently dropped him down between his unconscious rival's shirt-collar and neck, and then calmly leaned back with a virtuous and Christian air of satisfaction. The bug soon made his presence felt, and that other fellow began to twist and scratch himself against the back of his seat and look uneasy, and cast unhappy glances at the minister and affecting ones at the fair being at his side. The bug evidently began to grow impatient at his imprisonment, and turned himself loose, grappling around with a recklessness suggestive of black spiders or scorpious. and that other fellow could stand it no longer, but, bolting upright, casting one wild, startled look at the congregation, cleared the space between him and the door at two bounds.

> burying his wife, "when I came to an hour and a half, it just made me

Our New York Letter. NEW YORK OCT. 10, 1874.

Editor of Opinion:

The profession of begging has overflowing ranks here just at present. Under some form or other it crosses your path at every street corner, at your houses, countingrooms-even at your church doors hands extended, and they were on Sunday its votaries exhort, bless in the world to whom the risk of a suddenly clasped in eash others' or curse you according as you heed neck or a limb amounts to nothing

> Three distinct elements comprise this eleemosynary class: The genteel professional; the pathetic plead ciple under the first head, I may de-

can call our own. I've become deeply interested in the OPINION of late, taken, on the side of radical progress and reform."

Of course you gracefully acknowlquaintance.

"Ten thousand pardons my dear sir; my card-Smith of the Nation-

wields an influence perfectly astounding-its principles no more to be bought by the opposition, than single copies half an hour after leaving the press." The conversa tion runs on after this style till the stranger reaches for his bat and cane, and after urgently calling on you to stand steadfast in the ranks of progress and individual liberty, opens the door and bows himself out; while you compose yourself for a tussle with the Louisiana question. A moment and he is is back. "By Jove, will you believe it. I find my funds have run so low, I haven't enough change about me to WRITE LIGHTLY. An Indiana reach home, (a fine place in Harlem, editor advises people against using sir, oblige me by running down any fiding wives, who silently wonder a hard pencil, and goes on to tell time.) A personal favor, my dear why. His wife desired him to write fellow, if you'll lend me \$5." This is "Is Miss Ives at home?" said a note to a lady, inviting her to my numerous genteel professional

"Certainly, certainly," replied Is- the note she saw on another piece fully halting; arm in sling of an old suspender, and a general make up tie, Effic desires your company on charity in the coldest bosom. "Kind to hold and use money not henestgentleman it's only little I'm asking- ly gained; the stealthy, seductive, My wife is lying at home in convulsions with five small children at the for strong drink; the treacherous chair and awaited the young lady's of a long walk home with you, and breast, having nothing to eat since vesterday and I'm just from the hospital and not a drop of work since ness and in things which help a 18 cents for a bit of medicine Γm all noble purposes; the decay of asking and may the blessings of manliness; the recklessness and the Powers be with you." This blasphemy against fate; the sullen breathless appeal would, no doubt, stir you into the warmest sympathy of evil habits; what victories of had not this same thirsty gentleman shame and contempt, what harvests in the same breathless manner, the of hell, have grown from such seeds night previous, poured into your as these? ear how the convulsive wife had years, and he a slaving to support nine small children, when his "leg was broke by a fall." But of course you can't expect a man who travels all day, to keep a game leg more than 24 hours, when an arm can be slung up for a change.

Far be it from my intention to ridicule the deserving cases appealing to us for assistance, but these seldom come in this guise. There are established openings in every Ward for aiding those worthy of charity, and it is only those who can not so obtain it because not deservingthe charlatans of beggars-who importune us with absurd and improbable tales of woe. There is something which com-

mends No. 3 to our favorable notice. \$350,000. Known in the thirteenth Like the rest he has his sorrows, century as having been pillaged by but his story bears evidence of the Normans, the fame of the estruth on the very face of it. "See tate is almost wholly Napoleonic. here, friend, I'm hard up to-night, It was in this tranquil retreat that can't you give a feller 5 cents for a Napoleon planned most of his celedrink of whiskey ?" Now, there's brated campaigns, "where all the something so refreshingly cool about glories" -military, literary and artthis, that you can't help standing "I tell you." said a Wisconsin man off and gazing admiringly at the to a neighbor the next day after man. The convulsive wife: the palace after her divorce, and in 1814 small starving children; the hospi- the Emperor Alexander dined with get into bed, and lay thar, and not tal; the suspended arm; the game her; three days later she died, and hearing Lucinda jawing around for leg-all represented whiskey in a is buried in the neighboring parish pathetic disguise. But No. 3 isn't church. The property suffered from For awhile John and Lucy groped feel as if I'd moved into a strange the man to talk crusade when he the invasion of 1870, and from the means rum. He pleads fairly and allies in 1815.

squarely for his liquor, and if successful, can pat his conscience on the back, feeling a sort of melancholy satisfaction, no doubt, that in his case the evil of intemperance doesn't go hand in hand with the meanness of vile deceit and unmitigated lying.

AN INCIDENT. . There seem to be plenty of people when pitted against the loss of a minute or so.

A few days since, a man with arms and pockets crowded with proer; and the out and outer. A distruding bundles, a cane in one hand, an umbrella and fish pole in scribe as ascosting you in your city the other, came tearing down the Jersey city ferry slip, and leaping "Mr. Editor, how do you do, sir ? the space of three or four feet be-Busy I see, but then we members of tween the drop and the moving the press really have no time we boat, landed in the crowd of passengers lining the edge. Unable to stop ot once, he plunged through my dear sir, have watched its course three or four thicknesses of humancarefully and been amazed at the ity, spearing one man in the eye stupendous strides it has fearlessly with his umbrella, and taking another just under the second button of his waistcoat with the cane: while the toos that were crushededge the compliment, but confess allowing two corns to an oathyou havn't the pleasure, to your made the affair of painful interest ecollection, of the gentleman's ac- to about uineteen millions of mourners. Breathless and pale, at length our hero brings up against a six foot Jerseyman; but there was a al Reformer. Powerful sheet sir, soft, beautiful light in his eye, and the smile of sweet contentment on his face as he gasped out, "Got it, any way." "Got it, you fool," shricked the man, "This boat's com-

ing in!" DAMAGED MEN. You can see them any day in the streets of any town, men who look damaged. Men too, of good original material, who started out in life with generous sentiments and some generous aspirations. Once it was said they were bright, promising lads; once they looked happily into the faces of mothers whose daily breath was a prayer for their purity and peace. Ah, God! what if some of them have vowed their soul away to conwhat can be the meaning of this change-the cold, slow-creeping shadow that is coming over home and heart! what if some of them shrink from the touch of their own babes, as if innocence had nothing

for them but rebuke! Going to the bad! The spell of evil companionship; the willingness plausible advance of the appetite facinations of the gaming table; the gradual loss of interest in busidespair of ever breaking the chains

Sneer, If you will, like a fool, at the suggestions of reform, morals, religion; every man knows in his better moods-and every man has better moods-that all there is of true life is personal virtue and rectitude of character.

Going to the bad! But there is hope. Earth and Heaven are full of hands ever reaching to help the lost man back to the better way .-All the good there is in the universe, is in full sympathy with that little goodness which inwardly reproves and protests.

Malmaison, prominent in the romance of history as the favorite residence of the first Napoleon and the ill-fated Empress Josephine, is situated about nine miles from Paris, and has a present value of at least istic-of his reign found a cordial welcome. Josephine occupied this